

Reading Questions for February 24

These questions cover an article by Helga Kuhse called “Why Killing Is Not Always Worse – and Is Sometimes Better – Than Letting Die.” The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

In this article, Kuhse is responding to the article from Nesbitt we read last time. Nesbitt had argued that killing is worse than letting die. Kuhse thinks Nesbitt’s argument is problematic and she tries to explain why. She then gives an argument that killing is sometimes better than letting die.

*Questions:*

1. On page 372, Kuhse explains Nesbitt’s argument for the conclusion that killing is worse than letting die. How is the argument supposed to go?
2. On pages 372-3, Kuhse explains where she thinks Nesbitt’s argument goes awry. What does Kuhse think is wrong with Nesbitt’s argument? Do you agree with her? Why?
3. On pages 373-4, Kuhse argues that sometimes it is morally acceptable for doctors to kill us. How does her argument go? Do you agree with her? Why?